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A connecting rod in a high-performance engine, compressor, or pump is a critical component: if it fails, catastrophe follows. Yet to minimize inertial forces and bearing loads it must weigh as little as possible, implying the use of <u>light</u>, <u>strong materials</u>, stressed near their limits.

When minimizing cost is the objective, con-rods are frequently made of cast iron because it is so cheap

What are the best materials for con-rods when the objective is to <u>maximize performance</u>?











Materials for high-performance con-rods	
Material	Comment
Magnesium alloys Titanium alloys Beryllium alloys Aluminum alloys	AZ61 and related alloys offer good all-round performance Ti-6-4 is the best choice for high F/L^2 The ultimate choice, but difficult to process and very expensive Cheaper than titanium or magnesium, but lower performance

Air cylinder : graphical solution using CES chartsCES Stage 1; apply simple (non conflicting) constraints:
working temp up to 100°C, resist organic solvents etc.CES Stage 2: evaluate conflicting performance metrics:Must not yield:Must not yield: $\sigma_{f1} = \sigma_{y}$ Must not fracture $\sigma_{f2} = \frac{K_{u}}{\sqrt{\pi a}}$ $Must not fracture<math>m_{i}^{*} = \frac{\rho}{\sigma_{x}}$ $m_{i}^{*} = \frac{\rho}{K_{u}/\sqrt{\pi a}}$ $Must not fracture toughness<math>m_{i}^{*} = \frac{\rho}{K_{u}/\sqrt{\pi a}}$ Must not max mass<math>Must not fracture $M_{i}^{*} = \frac{\rho}{K_{u}/\sqrt{\pi a}}$ Must not fracture $M_{i}^{*} = \frac{\rho}{K_{u}/\sqrt{\pi a}}$ Must not fracture $M_{i}^{*} = \frac{\rho}{K_{u}/\sqrt{\pi a}}$ Must not fracture $M_{i}^{*} = \frac{\rho}{K_{u}}$ Must not fractureMust not fracture for max mass<math>Must not fractureMust not fracture for max mass<math>Must not fractureMust not fracture for mass<math>Must not fracture f

